DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 433 328 SP 038 744

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| AUTHOR | Codell, Esme Raji |
| TITLE | Educating Esme: Diary of a Teacher's First Year. |
| ISBN | ISBN-1-56512-225-9 |
| PUB DATE | 1999-00-00 |
| NOTE | 204p. |
| AVAILABLE FROM | Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, P.O. Box 2225, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2225; Tel: 919-967-0108; Fax: 919-933-0272; Web site: www.algonquin.com ($17.95). |
| PUB TYPE | Books (010) -- Opinion Papers (120) |
| EDRS PRICE | Document Not Available from EDRS. |
| DESCRIPTORS | *Beginning Teachers; diaries; Elementary Education; Elementary School Teachers; Journal Writing; Public Schools; Teacher Administrator Relationship; *Teacher Attitudes; Urban Schools |

ABSTRACT

This book presents the uncensored diary of a young, beginning elementary school teacher. She started teaching in an inner-city, Chicago public school, where gangs attacked her class and her own students stabbed a substitute with a pencil. The most trying challenges she faced were from administrators who questioned her unconventional techniques (such as dancing with students, roller skating in the hallways, and creating a historical time machine from an old refrigerator), even after she sharply improved her students' standardized test scores and won a prestigious teacher award. The author prettifies nothing about her frenetic, often frustrating first year. (SM)

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